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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6927
INFO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 2498
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT 4931
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 1585
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 1253
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1137
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0311
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-2/REA/NMJIC-J2//
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J5/RUE//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2/HSE/CCJ5//

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000141

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/CACEN (PERRY), SA DAS (GASTRIGHT)
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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [PGOV](#) [KFLU](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: WEEKLY FOLLOW-UP ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

REFTEL: A) ASHGABAT 48
B) ASHGABAT 1375
C) ASHGABAT 1335
D) ASHGABAT 82 AND PREVIOUS
E) ASHGABAT 153802

Sensitive But Unclassified; Not for Internet Distribution

11. PER REFTEL E, POST PROVIDES A WEEKLY FOLLOW-UP ON
AVIAN INFLUENZA.

INVESTIGATION INTO MYSTERIOUS BIRD DEATHS

12. (SBU) ON JANUARY 20, A SOURCE AT THE MOH TOLD
USAID'S HEALTH PROJECT SPECIALIST THAT CHIEF OF SANITARY
AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SERVICE LEYLA SHAMURADOVA MADE VISITS
TO MARY, LEBAP AND BALKAN WELAYATS TO INVESTIGATE THE
MASS DEATH OF CHICKENS. THE VISITS' OUTCOME WAS KEPT
CONFIDENTIAL.

SIPDIS

GOTX'S SMALL STEPS FORWARD

13. (SBU) THE MOH IS INVENTORYING LOCAL HOSPITALS'
SUPPLIES OF PLAGUE PROTECTIVE GEAR FOR USE IN THE EVENT
OF AN AI OUTBREAK OR QUARANTINE. ADDITIONALLY, THE MOH
PLANS TO IMPORT ENZYME TEST KITS AND TO SUPPLY LOCAL
PHARMACIES WITH NASAL OINTMENT TO PREVENT AN AI OUTBREAK.
ON JANUARY 27, THE MOH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS IS
ORGANIZING AN AI MEETING FOR INTERNATIONAL DONORS.
EMBASSY EXPECTS THE MOH WILL REQUEST DONOR SUPPORT FOR A
PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ON THE RISKS OF AI. ON JANUARY 29,
THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON AI WILL CONVENE FOR A CLOSED
SESSION. INTERNATIONAL DONORS ARE NOT INVITED.

INADEQUATE AND UNDERFUNDED EFFORTS

14. (SBU) THE LOCAL WHO OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE TOLD

USAID'S HEALTH SPECIALIST THAT A POOR UNDERSTANDING OF AI HAS LED TO AN INADEQUATE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN. (NOTE: USAID HAS NOT REVIEWED THE PLAN, BUT EXPECTS TO RECEIVE A COPY IMMINENTLY. END NOTE.) ADDITIONALLY, THE VETERINARIAN LABORATORY DESIGNATED TO TEST FOR AI (REF B) STILL DOES NOT HAVE TEST KITS, AND THE MOH'S TURKMEN-LANGUAGE BROCHURES ON AI NEED DONOR FUNDING TO COVER PHOTOCOPYING EXPENSES.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS CONTINUE

15. (U) ON JANUARY 26, A UN AI THEME GROUP MEETING WAS CONVENED. THE WHO DISTRIBUTED A DRAFT WORK PLAN IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL AI RESPONSE.

COMMENT

16. (SBU) THE GOTX'S SMALL STEPS FORWARD ARE ENCOURAGING, BUT SOLICITATION OF INTERNATIONAL DONORS TO FUND UNILATERAL -- NOT COORDINATED BILATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL - PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND INFORMATION SHARING DOES NOT INITIATE THE GOTX INTO THE LEAGUE OF COUNTRIES WORKING COOPERATIVELY TO STOP OR LIMIT A POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL AI PANDEMIC. END COMMENT.

JACOBSON